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SIPDIS

STATE FOR ISN/WMDT MEGGEN WATT AND SARAH PRESCOTT

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: THE NETHERLANDS TO HOST FIFTH GLOBAL
INITIATIVE MEETING IN JUNE 2009

REF: (A) 08 STATE 132539 (B) MOORE-PRESCOTT E-MAIL
12/24/08

¶1. DCM, together with counterparts from the Russian and Netherlands embassies, delivered Ref (A) points to MFA Director General for Multilateral Affairs Aruni Wijaywardena on January 21. This joint demarche followed up on a December 23 diplomatic note from the Embassy to the MFA. Wijaywardena was familiar with the planned meeting and responded that the Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) &hoped8 it would be possible to participate and &hoped8 they would do so at the Deputy Foreign Minister level. She indicated that the GSL would not be able to commit to participation until this spring. Wijaywardena emphasized that the issue of terrorism, including nuclear terrorism, is of great concern and relevance to Sri Lanka.

¶2. Wijaywardena noted her correspondence with the Global Initiative Office of Weapons of Mass Destruction-Terrorism (ISN/WMDT) regarding the possibility of the GSL and the U.S. jointly hosting a regional GICNT nuclear deterrence maritime security workshop in Sri Lanka this spring. She appreciated the draft concept paper she received in December. She hoped the U.S. would be in a position to fund the event and said she would contact the ISN/WMDT in the near future to arrange a conference call to discuss substantive and logistical aspects of the proposed regional meeting.

Blake